

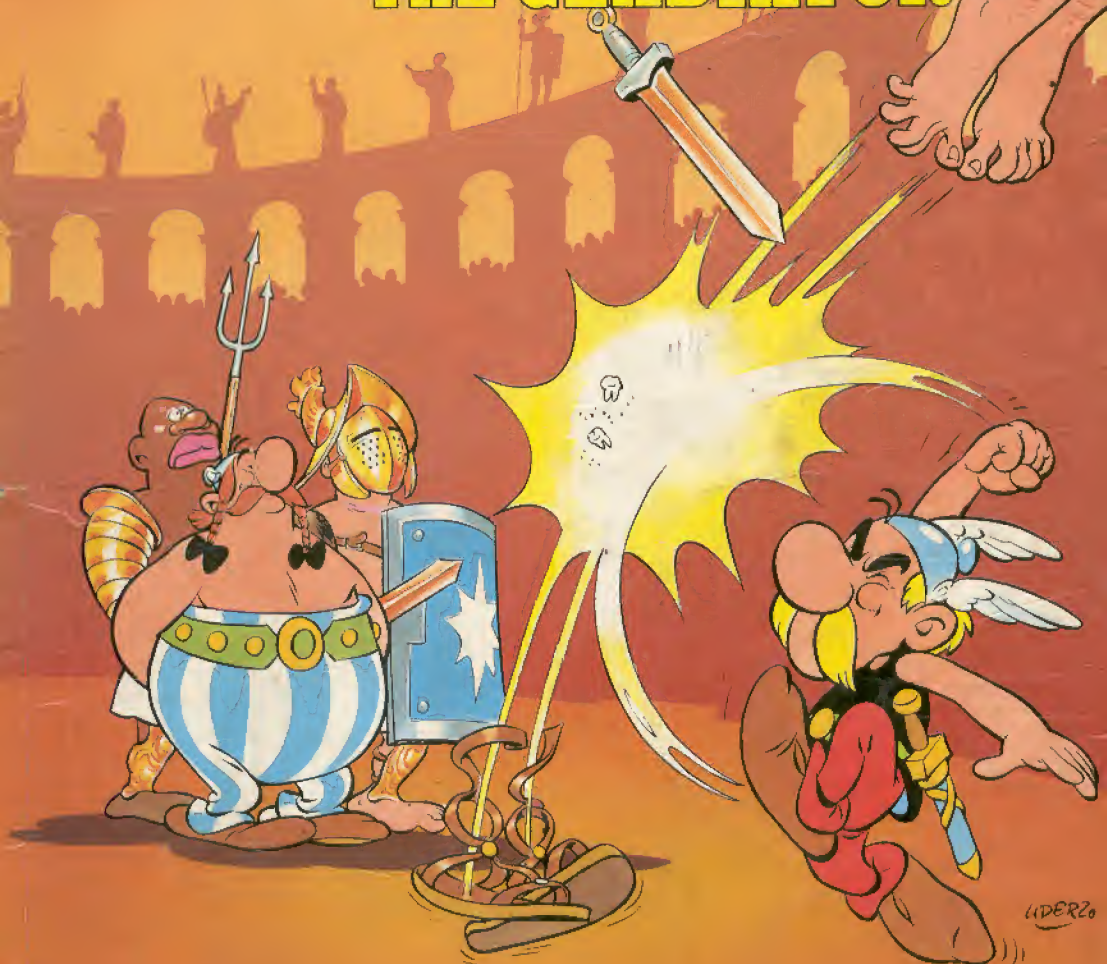
HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS



TEXT: GOSCINNY  
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

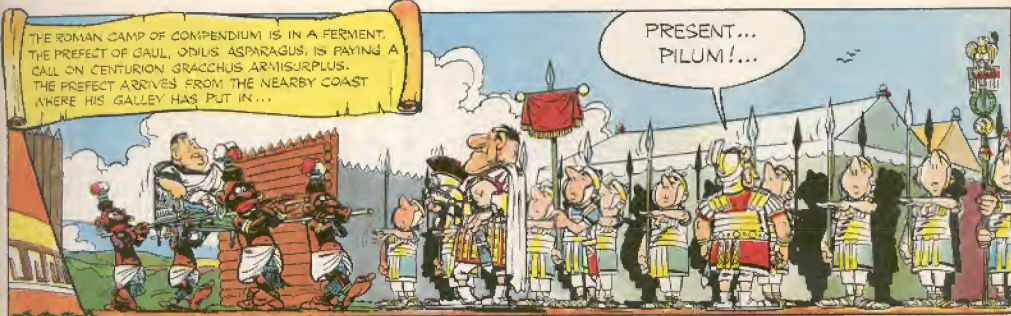
# Asterix

## THE GLADIATOR



THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM IS IN A FERMENT. THE PREFECT OF GAUL, ODLIUS ASPARAGUS, IS PAYING A CALL ON CENTURION GRACCHUS ARMISURPLUS. THE PREFECT ARRIVES FROM THE NEARBY COAST WHERE HIS GALLEY HAS PUT IN...

PRESENT...  
PILUM!...

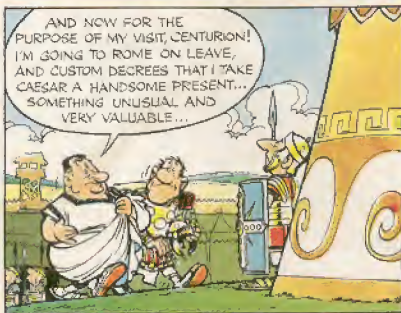


AVE, PREFECT!  
THIS IS A GREAT  
HONOUR FOR  
ME!

AVE, CENTURION!  
YOU'RE TELLING  
ME!



AND NOW FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, CENTURION!  
I'M GOING TO ROME ON LEAVE,  
AND CUSTOM DECREES THAT I TAKE  
CAESAR A HANDSOME PRESENT...  
SOMETHING UNUSUAL AND  
VERY VALUABLE...



... I DID THINK OF TAKING  
HIM A PRESENT FROM  
LUTETIA, MAYBE A MARBLE  
MEMO TABLET FOR HIM TO  
CARVE DOWN HIS  
APPOINTMENTS, BUT THAT'S  
TOO ORDINARY...



THEN I HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA!  
WHY NOT TAKE CAESAR ONE OF THE  
INVINCIBLE GAULS FROM HEREABOUTS?



BUT, PREFECT, ABOUT  
THESE INVINCIBLE GAULS  
... THERE'S JUST ONE  
SNAG!

WELL,  
WHAT IS IT?



THEY HAPPEN  
TO BE  
INVINCIBLE!

THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM  
SO VALUABLE! GET ME ONE OF  
THESE GAULS, AND YOU  
WON'T REGRET IT!



THERE'S CERTAINLY ONE  
WHO'S A BIT MORE HARMLESS  
THAN THE OTHERS... CACOFONIX  
THE BARD. HE OFTEN GOES FOR  
WALKS IN THE FOREST BY HIMSELF  
LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION!

EXCELLENT!  
I MUST HAVE THIS  
BARD- AND FAST!



AND IN THE GAULISH  
VILLAGE...

GOODBYE,  
ASTERIX, I'M GOING  
FOR A WALK IN  
THE FOREST!

GOODBYE,  
CACOFONIX!







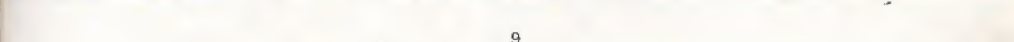




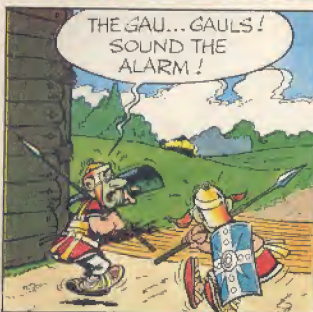










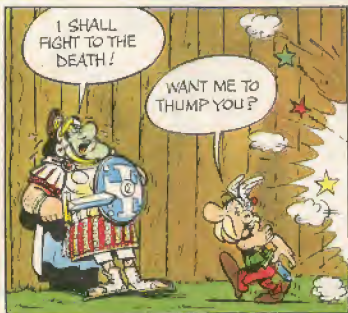
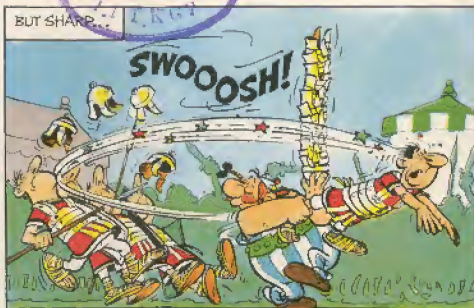




THE BATTLE IS SHORT...



BUT SHARP...





LATER, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

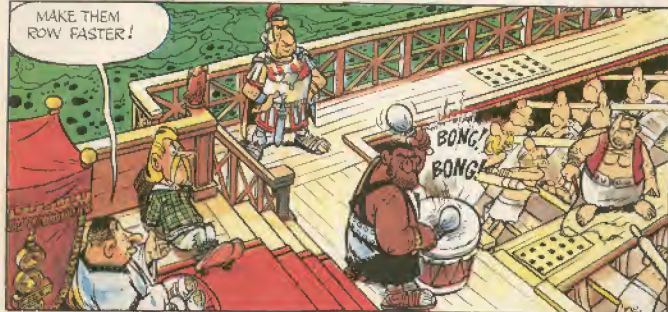
POOR CACOFONIX, PRISONER ON BOARD A ROMAN GALLEY!

HE WAS SO NICE! SCRUNCH! SO WELL BROUGHT UP! NEVER SANG WITH HIS MOUTH FULL! SCRUNCH! PITY HE DIDN'T EAT MUCH... SCRUNCH!

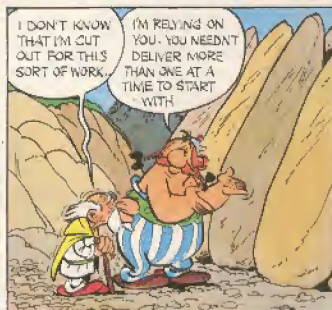
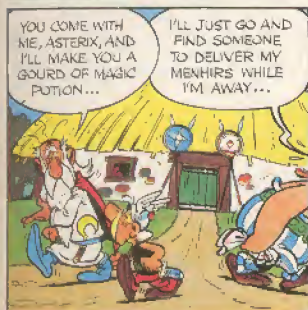
MEANWHILE...



MAKE THEM ROW FASTER!









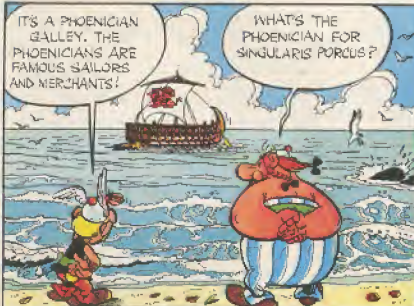


NOW TO STOP  
THIS SHIP  
SAILING ALONG  
THE COAST!

ASTERIX AND OBELIX MAKE  
THE ANCIENT GAULISH SIGN INDICATING  
A WISH TO BE TAKEN ON BOARD...  
NOTE THE FOUR CLENCHED  
FINGERS AND THE THUMB JERKED  
IN THE DESIRED DIRECTION. IF YOU  
WISH TO GO TO ROME, THE DIRECTION  
OF THE THUMB IS INVIOLABLE,  
SINCE ALL ROADS LEAD THERE

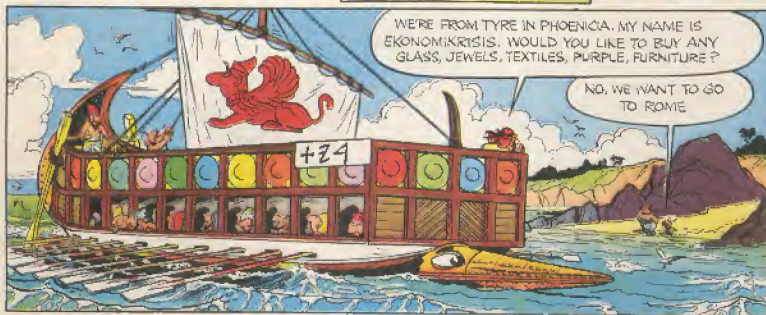


N.B. THIS GESTURE IS STILL  
EMPLOYED TODAY, THOUGH NOT  
OFTEN TO STOP SHIPS



IT'S A PHOENICIAN  
GALLEY. THE  
PHOENICIANS ARE  
FAMOUS SAILORS  
AND MERCHANTS!

WHAT'S THE  
PHOENICIAN FOR  
SINGULARIS PORCUS?

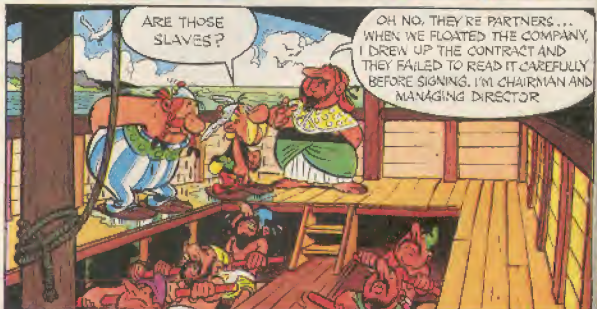
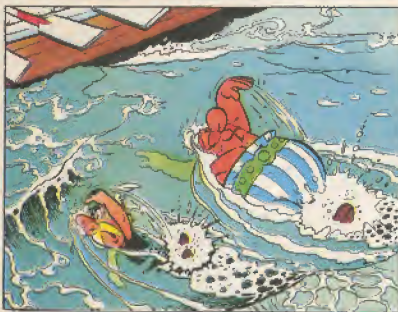


WE'RE FROM TYRE IN PHOENICIA. MY NAME IS  
ECONOMIKRISIS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY ANY  
GLASS, JEWELS, TEXTILES, PURPLE, FURNITURE?

NO, WE WANT TO GO  
TO ROME

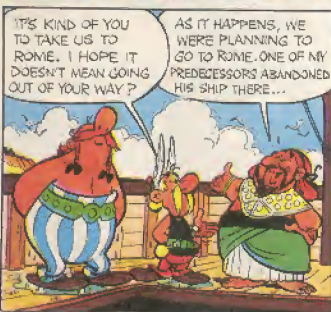


HM...ER...ALL RIGHT,  
COME ON BOARD!



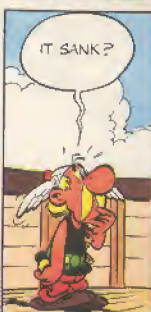
ARE THOSE  
SLAVES?

OH NO, THEY'RE PARTNERS...  
WHEN WE FLOATED THE COMPANY,  
I DREW UP THE CONTRACT AND  
THEY FAILED TO READ IT CAREFULLY  
BEFORE SIGNING. I'M CHAIRMAN AND  
MANAGING DIRECTOR



IT'S KIND OF YOU  
TO TAKE US TO  
ROME. I HOPE IT  
DOESN'T MEAN GOING  
OUT OF YOUR WAY?

AS IT HAPPENS, WE  
WERE PLANNING TO  
GO TO ROME. ONE OF MY  
PREDECESSORS ABANDONED  
HIS SHIP THERE...

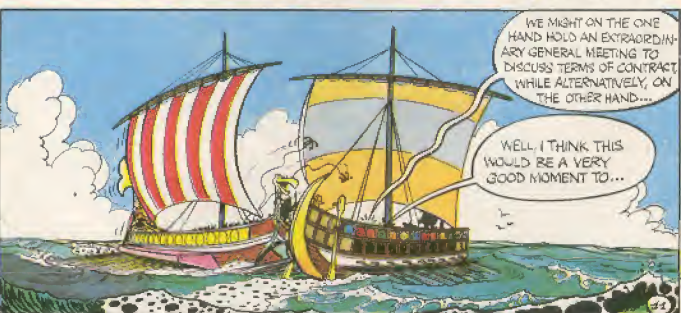
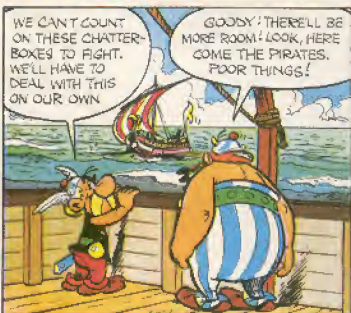
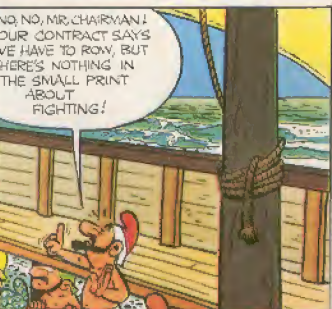
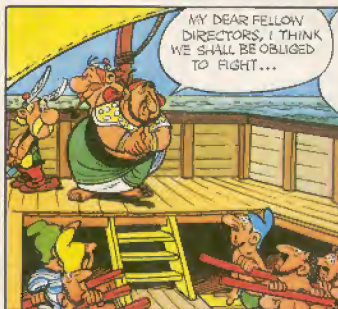
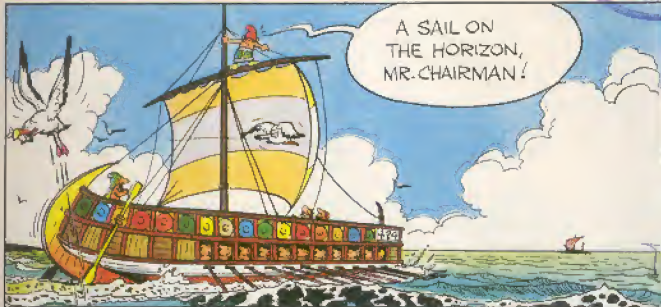


IT SANK?

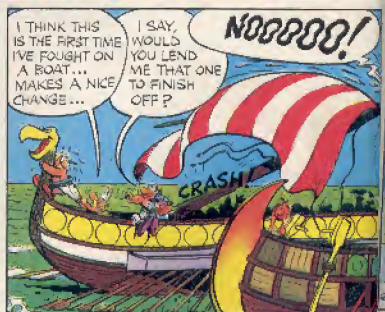
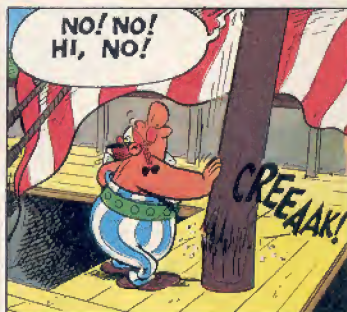
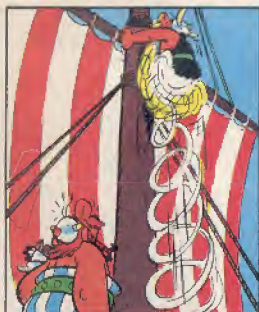
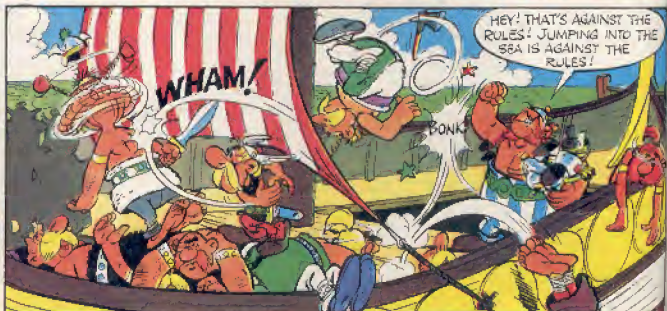
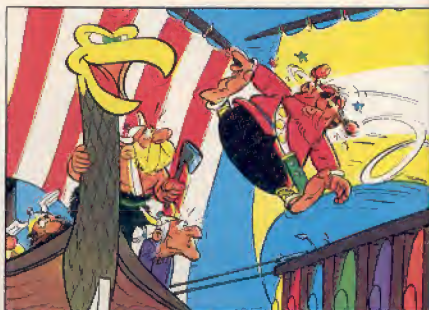
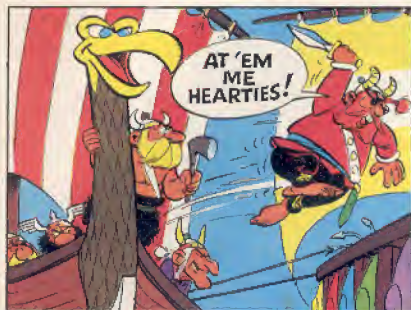


NO, HE SOLD IT. HE WAS A  
BETTER SALESMAN THAN  
SAILSMAN

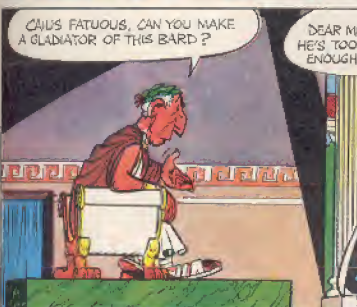




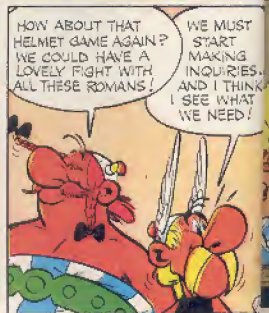
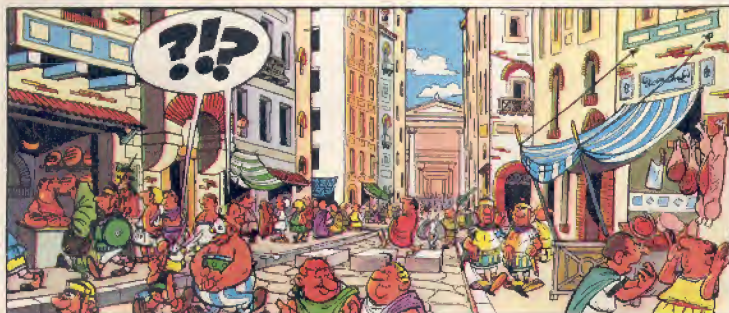
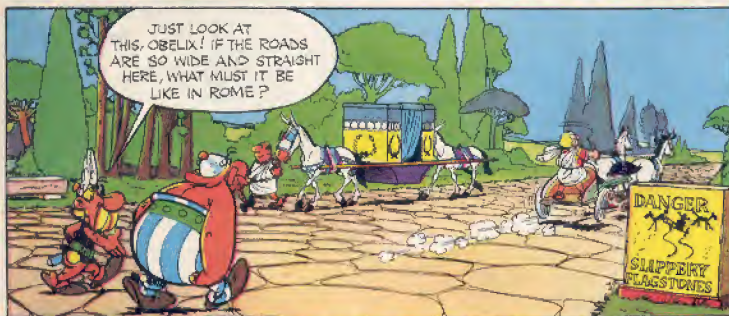




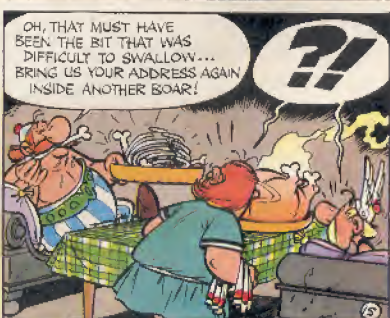
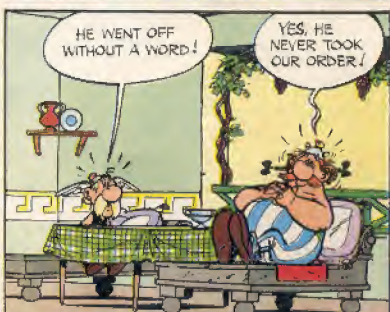
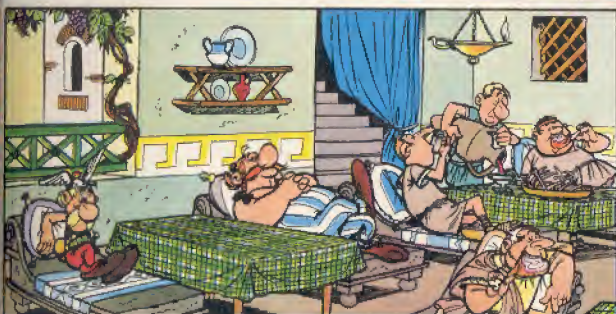




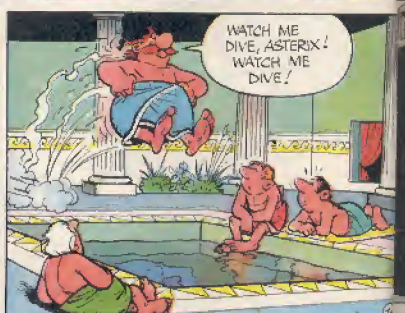
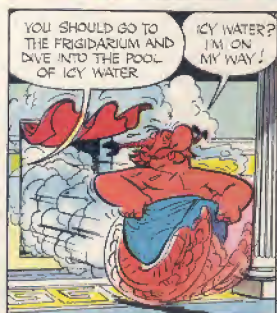
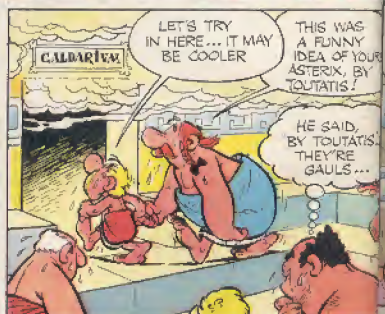
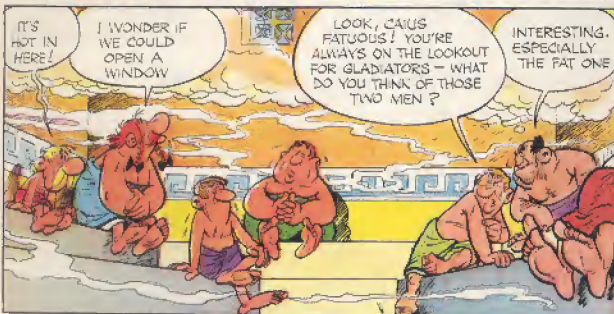
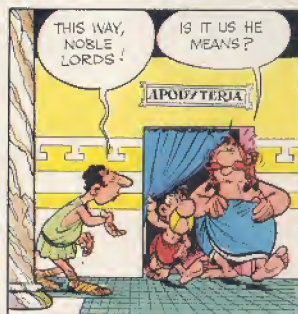
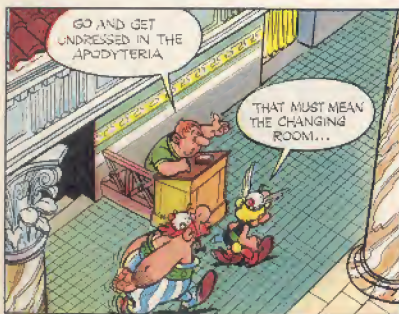
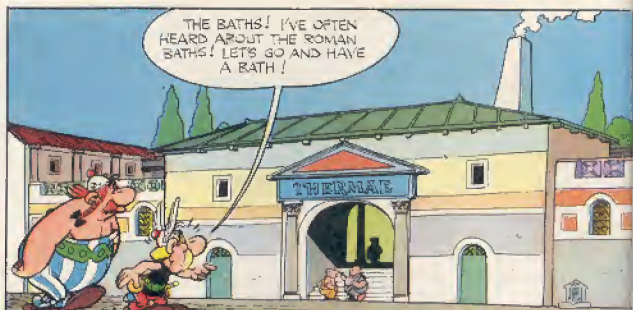
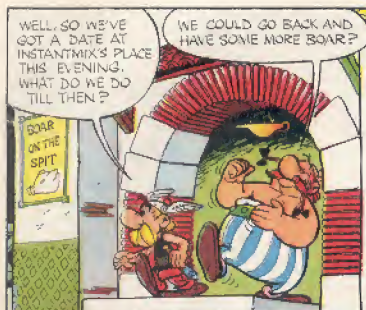




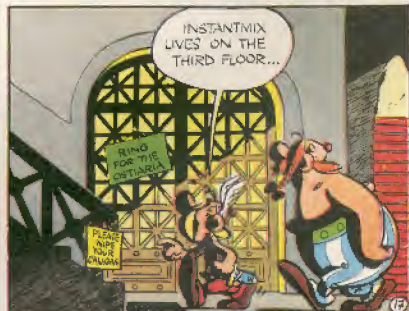
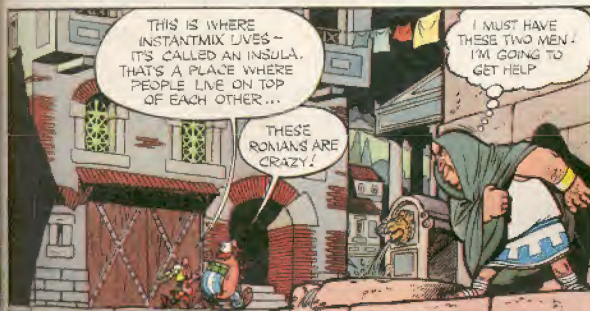
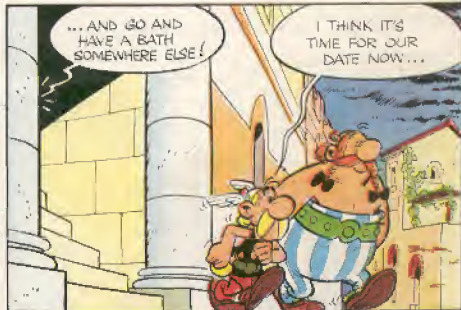
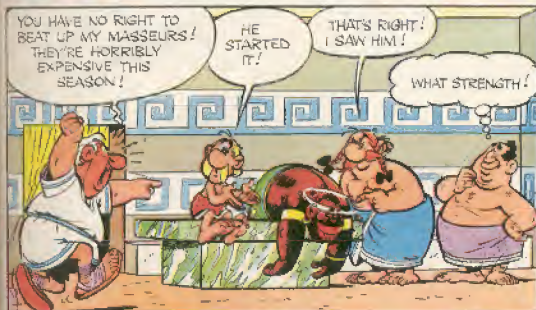
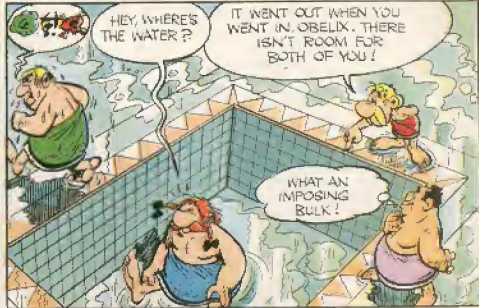




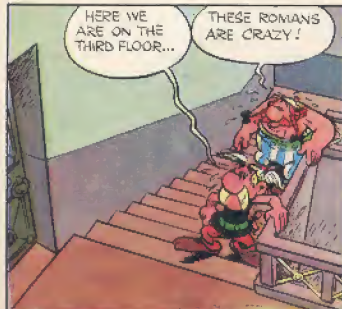












HERE WE ARE ON THE THIRD FLOOR...

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!



STOP WASTING TIME AND KNOCK AT THIS DOOR!

RIGHT!



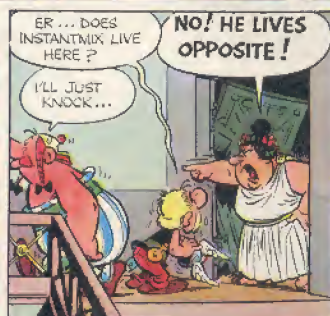
CRASH!



I SAID KNOCK! I DIDN'T SAY SMASH IT IN!

DON'T SHOUT AT ME! YOU KNOW KNOCKING AND SMASHING COME TO THE SAME THING WITH ME!

WHAT'S ALL THIS?



ER... DOES INSTANTNIX LIVE HERE?

NO! HE LIVES OPPOSITE!

I'LL JUST KNOCK...



CRASH!



DON'T TOUCH ANY MORE DOORS!

YOU KEEP ON SHOUTING! I DIDN'T SHOUT AT YOU WHEN YOU GOT US INTO HOT WATER JUST NOW, DID I?

WHAT ABOUT MY DOOR? YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS?



LET'S HAVE A BIT OF PEACE! WE'RE TRYING TO SLEEP, BY JUPITER!



COME ALONG IN...

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE, BY MERCURY! PRACTISING THE LYRE EVERY NIGHT

OH, AND HOW ABOUT YOU, BY VULCAN? HOLDING ORGIES EVERY CALENDIS!



NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE...

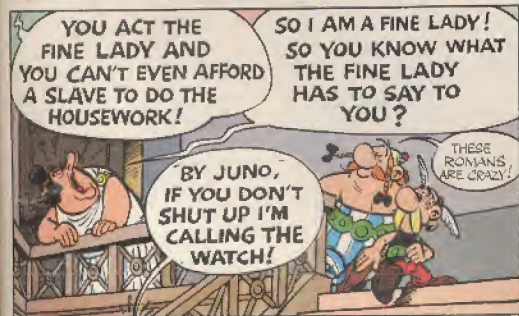
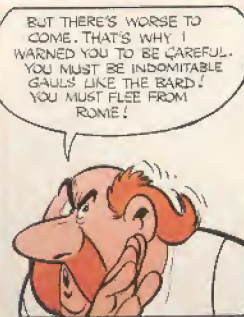
OH, IT'S JUST A SMALL FLAT - CUBICULUM, KITCHEN, TRIKLINIUM, AND YOU HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE AQUEDUCT FOR WATER...



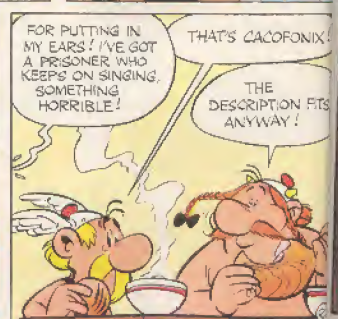
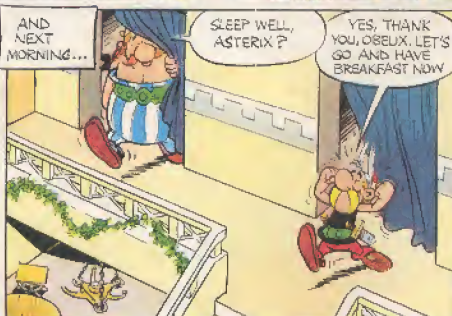
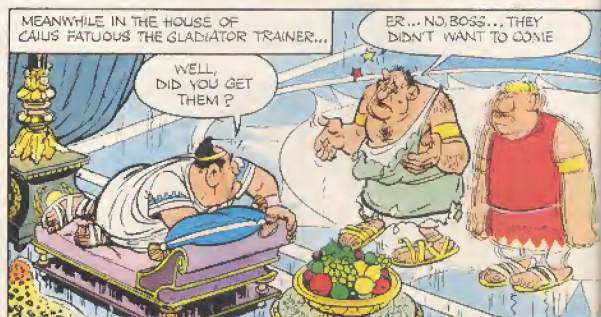
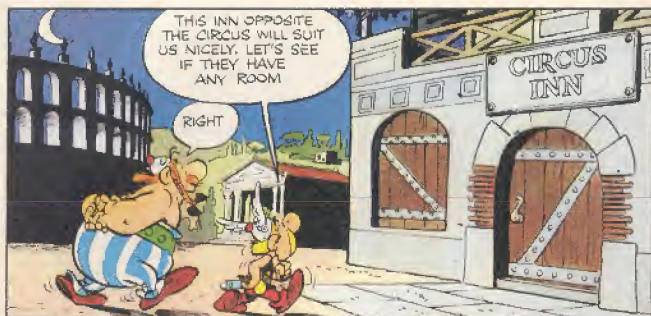
AND WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS SORT OF PLACE?

OH, THESE ARE GLC FLATS - GREATER LATIN COUNCIL...

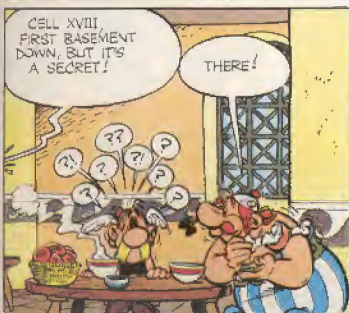
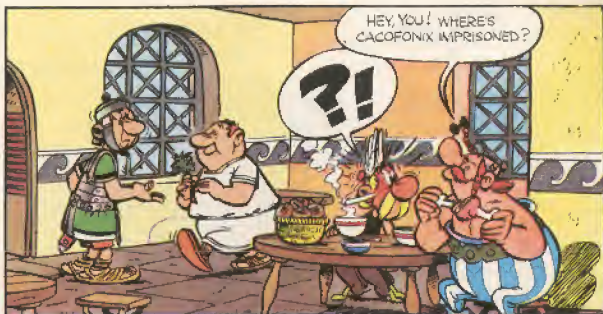
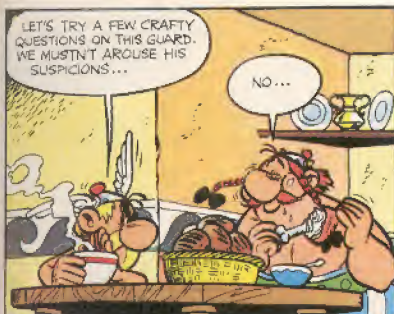




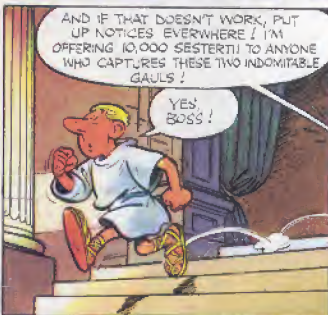
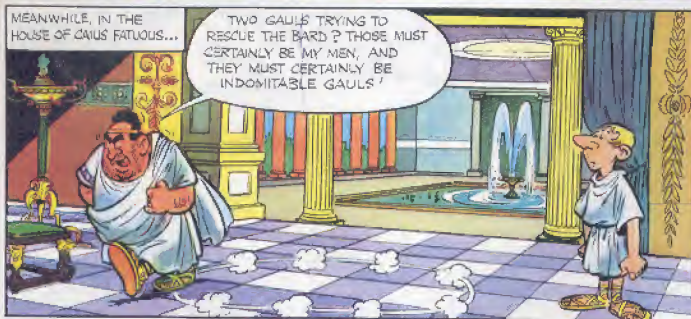
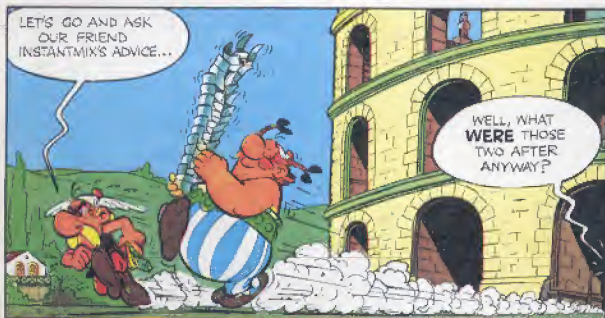




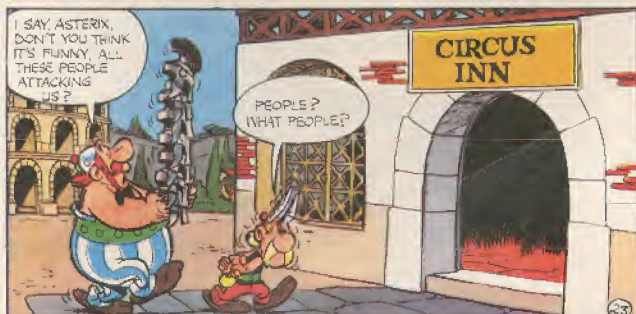
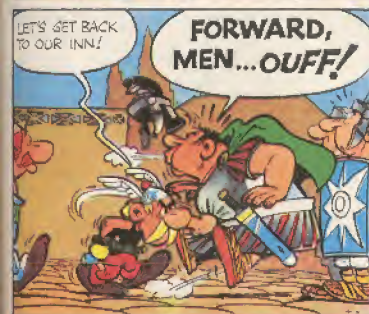
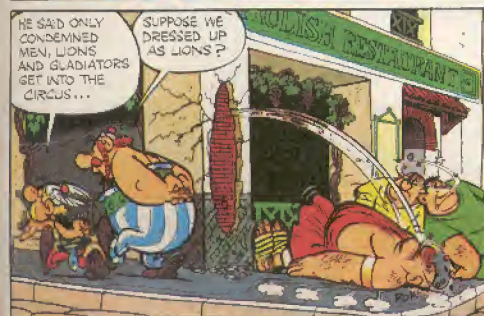
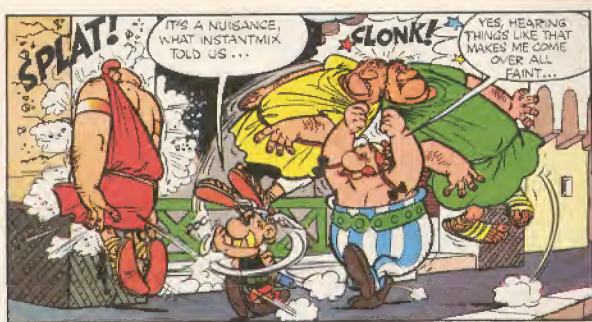




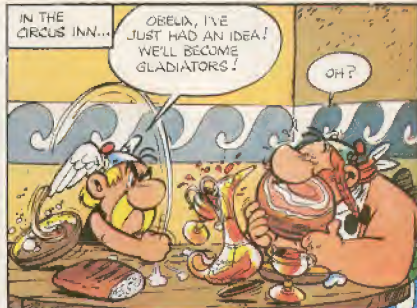




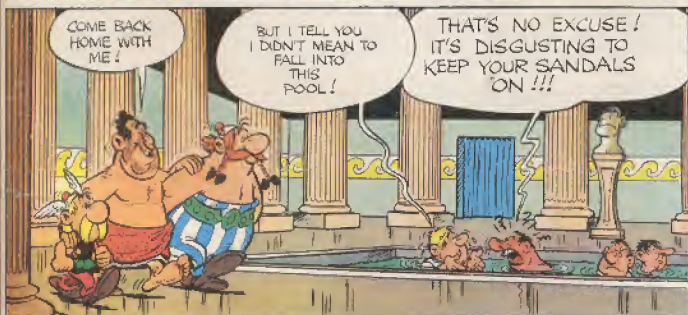
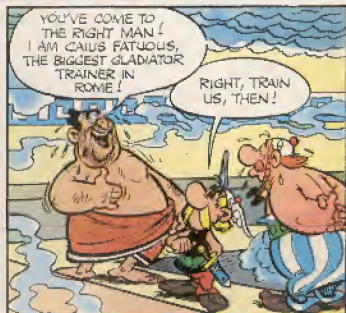
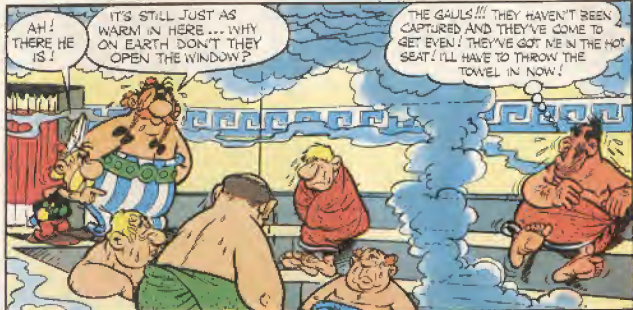
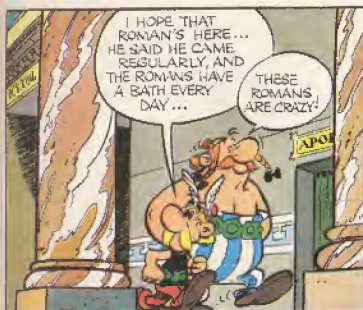




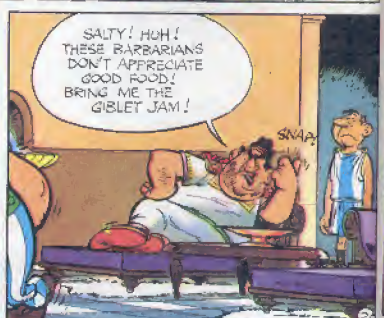
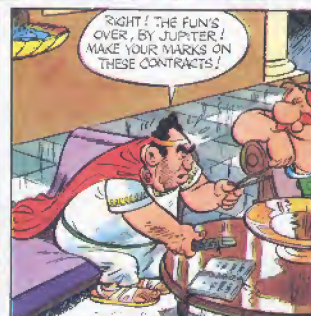




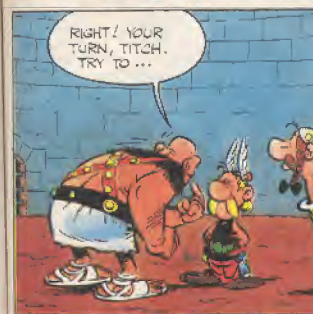
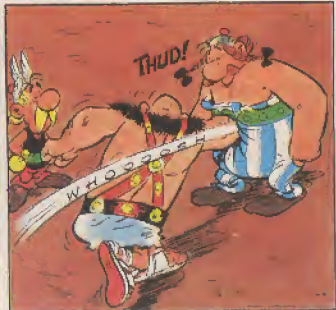




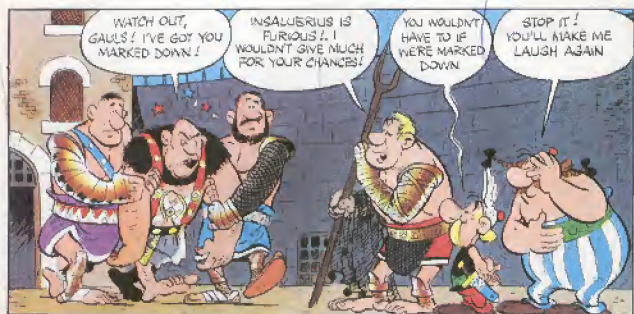




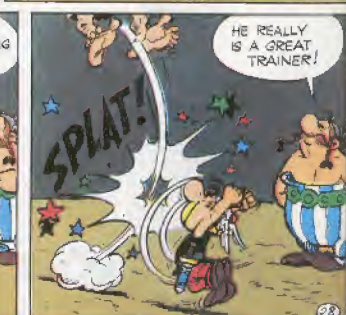
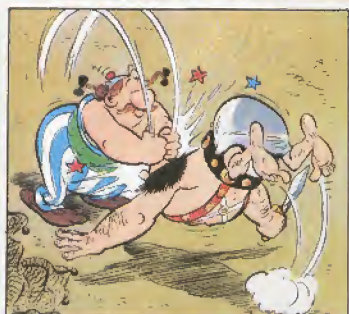




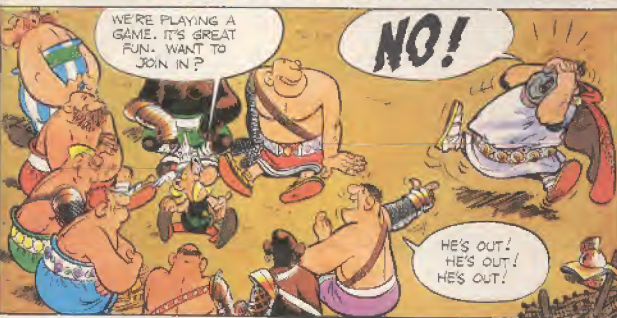
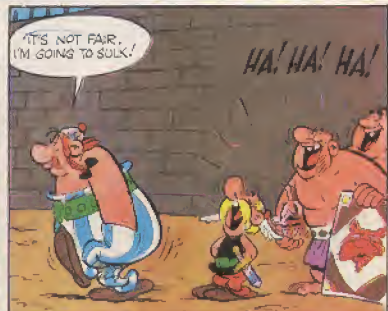




YOU HAVE A TRIDENT - WE USE A STICK - TRAINING - AND A NET. YOU HAVE TO CATCH YOUR OPPONENT IN THE NET LIKE A FISH











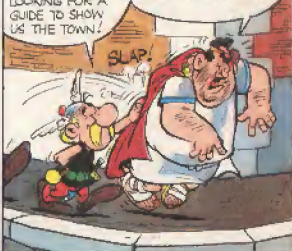


WH... WHAT'S THIS?  
YOU'VE GOT OUT??

NOT A BAD  
PROGRAMME, BUT WE'LL  
WANT TO MAKE A FEW  
ALTERATIONS...

HE DOES  
SEEM SURPRISED  
TO SEE US,  
AND PLEASED!

A GUI... A GUI...  
A GUIDE!



KEEP A STIFF  
UPPER LIP... THE  
MAIN THING IS  
NOT TO LOSE  
SIGHT OF  
THEM...

ALL RIGHT



YOU SEEM VERY SURE  
YOU'LL GET OUT OF THE  
CIRCUS ALIVE!

WELL, OF  
COURSE!

DON'T YOU WORRY  
ABOUT US!

???

SUPPOSE I WENT  
CARVING MY  
NAME ON YOUR  
PYRAMIDS, EH?

NOW LET'S GO  
BACK TO YOUR  
PLACE FOR  
DINNER!

AND NO BORING  
LITTLE PASTIES THIS  
TIME - JUST  
BOARS!

DINNER IS MUCH ENJOYED  
BY EVERYONE - WELL,  
NEARLY EVERYONE...

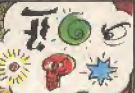
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR  
THE ROMANS, THEY KNOW  
HOW TO ENTERTAIN! ISN'T  
THAT RIGHT, OBELEX?

YUM! GULP!  
'BRIGHT!  
SCRUNCH!

PATIENCE, PATIENCE!  
THEY'LL BE LAUGHING THE  
OTHER SIDE OF THEIR  
FACES IN THE ARENA!

COME ALONG, IT'S TIME TO  
GO BACK TO OUR QUARTERS!  
I HOPE WE HAVEN'T OVERSTAYED  
OUR WELCOME?

I SHOULD HAVE HAD  
A BOAR FOR THE  
ROAD...





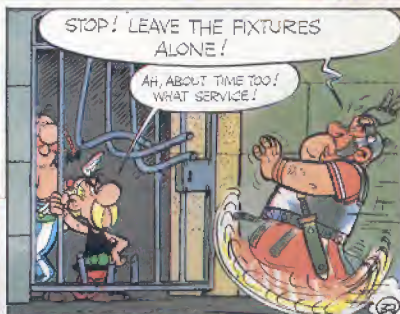
TIME PASSES BY, AND THE GLADIATORS ARE PUTTING ON WEIGHT...



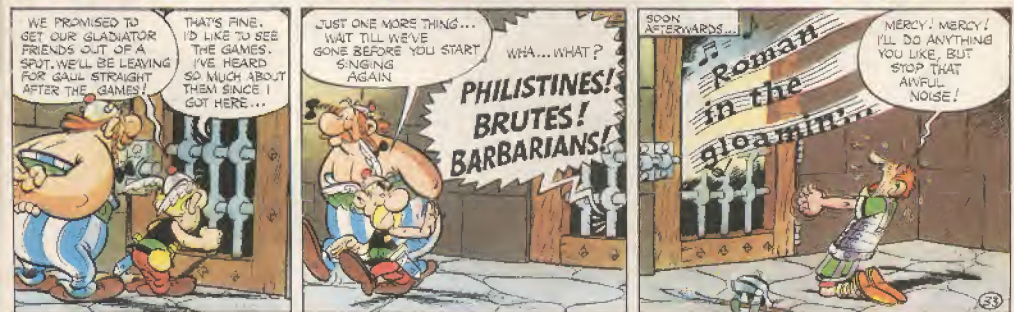
WHILE CAIUS  
RATUJUS IS  
LOSING IT...



AND A VERY RELAXED GROUP OF  
GLADIATORS ARRIVES AT THE CIRCUS...









A HUGE CROWD IS FORMING OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS...

WASH YOUR TOGAS IN SUPER PERSIC! SUPER PERSIC WASHES EVEN PURPLER!

SCORE CARD! SCORE CARD!

CUSHIONS! CUSHIONS!

CHIPOLATAE! CANES CALIDI! CHIPOLATAE!

AND INSIDE THE IMPOSING ARENA THE TRUMPETS ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF CAESAR IN THE IMPERIAL BOX...

TANTAN TARA!!!!

PANEM ET CIRCENSES

LONG LIVE CAESAR!

CAESAR FOR EVER!

EVERYONE APPLAUDS THE DICTATOR...

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

ET TU BRUTE!

\* YOU TOO, BRUTUS!

THAT BRUTUS... I CAN SEE I'M GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH HIM!

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

THIS WILL BE A GREAT SHOW, O CAESAR!

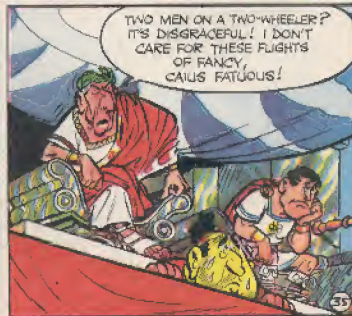
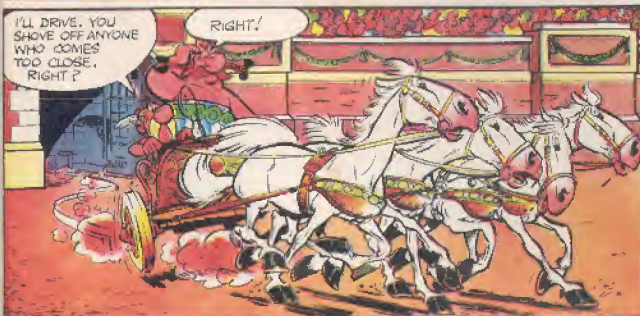
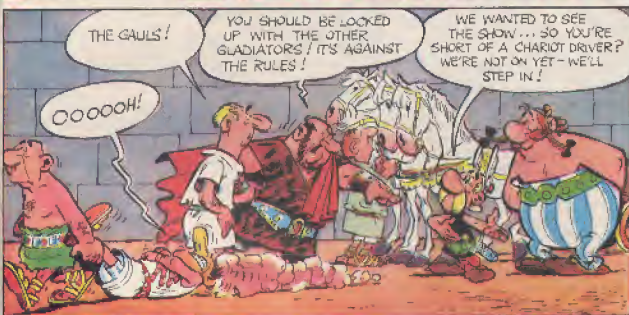
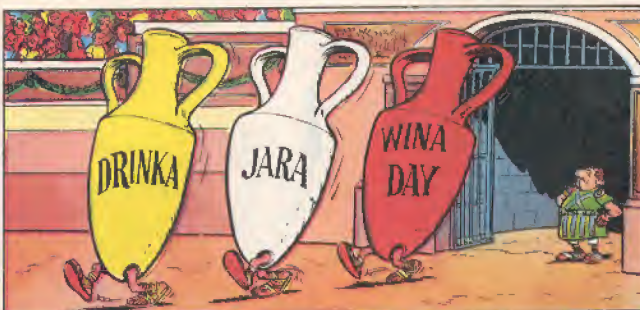
I HOPE SO, CAIUS FATUOUS. IF NOT, YOU'LL BE IN ON THE ACT

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

GULP!

\* AN EXAMINATION OF ACT III, SCENE 1 OF JULIUS CAESAR BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE WILL INDICATE THE DROGNOMIC NATURE OF THIS REMARK







THE CHARIOTS  
ARE OFF...

THAT ONE IN FRONT  
WONT LET US  
OVERTAKE!

AAAAARGH!

IF THOSE TWO COME NEAR ME, BY MERCURY, THEY'LL GET A TASTE OF MY WHIP!

Pa.

GRACK.

YOU GO ON-LEAVE  
THIS TO ME! WE'LL  
HAVE SOME FUN!



LAST  
LAP

LET GO, WILL  
YOU! LET  
GO THIS  
MINUTE!

YOU CAN LET GO NOW,  
OBELIX. I'VE WON!

**NOOOOO!**

500 N

AVE  
CAESAR!

THE  
PEOPLE ARE  
PLEASED...  
AND THAT  
PLEASES ME!

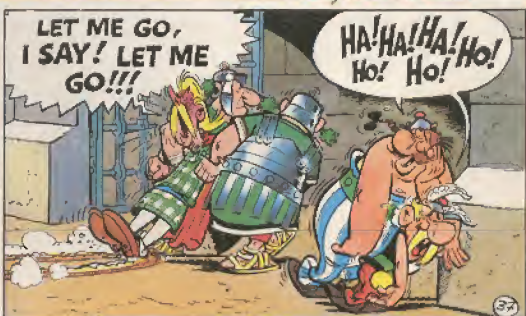
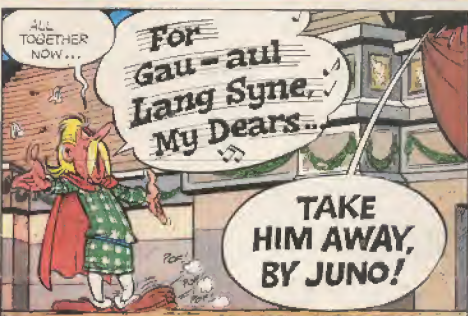
ER... THAT'S  
IT... I GOT UP A  
LITTLE COMIC  
TURN!  
I THOUGHT THE  
PEOPLE WOULD  
LIKE IT!

BUT WE DON'T  
WANT THE  
GAMES TO BE  
ALL COMIC TURN

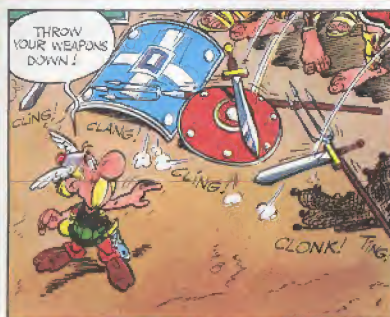
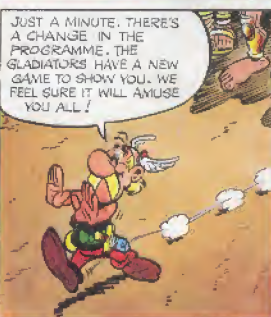
NO, NO!  
AND NOW WE  
PRESENT A MAN  
BEING EATEN  
ALIVE BY THE  
LIONS!

**CRUNCH!**

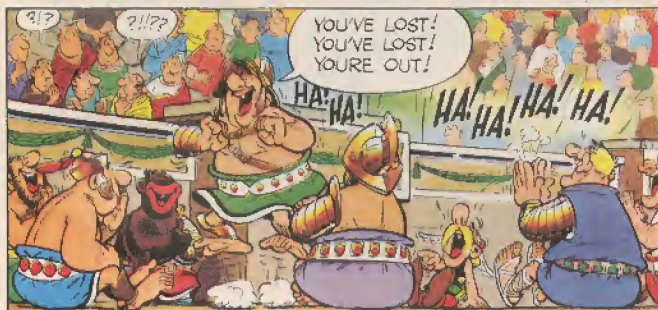
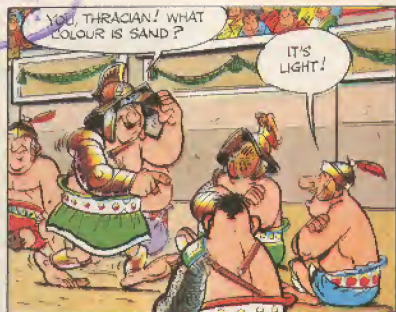




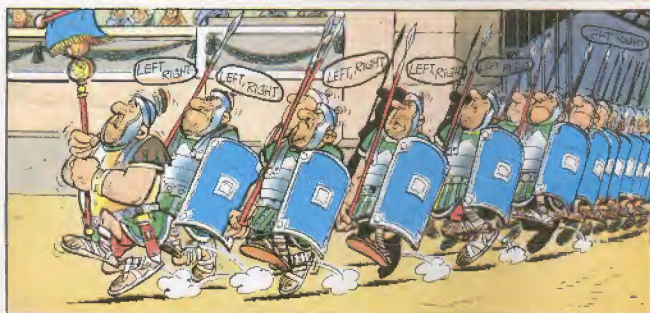
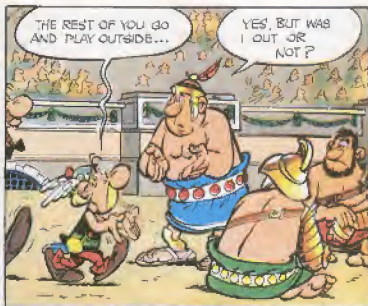
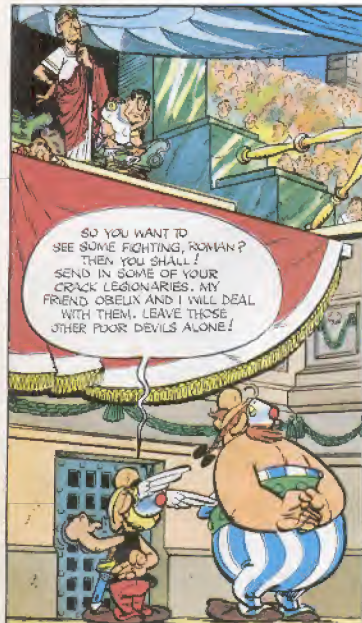




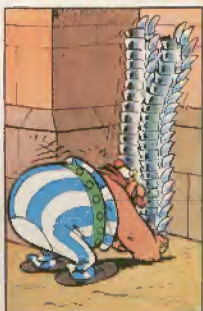




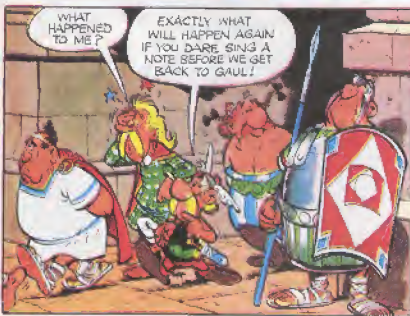
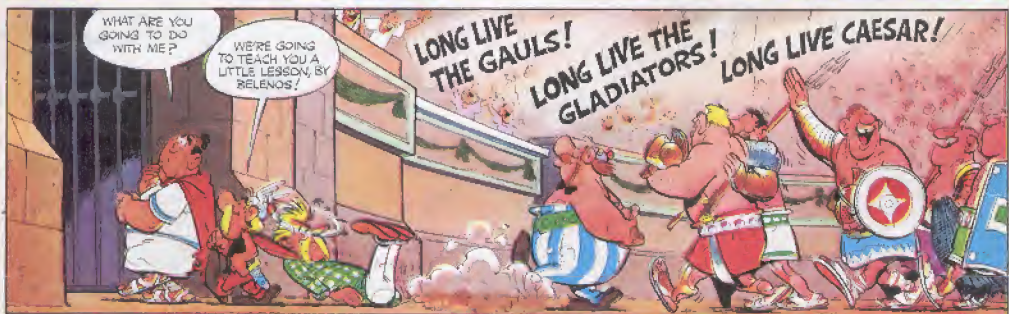
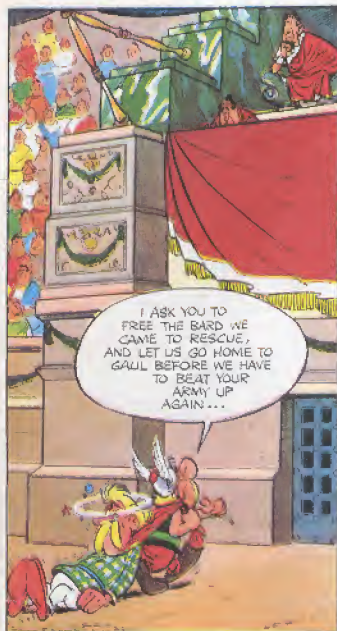


















AT LAST WE  
HEAR THE LONG  
AWAITED SHOUT...

**GAUL!!!**

**HURRAH,  
BY TOUTATIS!**

THANKS FOR THE  
TRIP, EKONOMIKRISIS.  
PROMISE TO TAKE THE  
ROMAN HOME SAFE AND  
SOUND AND NOT SELL  
HIM ON THE WAY!

WHAT, SELL  
A PARTNER?

A  
FRIEND?

WE'RE VERY FOND  
OF CAIUS SATIUS.  
HE KEEPS US ALL  
GOING!

RIGHT... OFF WE  
GO, PARTNER! LET'S  
SPEED OUR ENTERPRISE  
ON ITS WAY!



THE GAULISH VILLAGE CELEBRATES  
THE RETURN OF ITS HEROES WITH A  
GREAT FEAST... AND BUT FOR THE  
FACT THAT CACORONIX WAS THE  
INVOLUNTARY VICTIM OF A TECHNICAL  
HITCH, HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE  
GIVEN THEM A SONG...

**the end**

liberto  
&  
gocenny